

Nov. 25, 2003 - Tri-Cities, TN-VA

360° Tours | As Seen On TV | Dining Out Guide |



Home News Weather Sports Entertainment Obituaries Features Med. Watch Multimedia


Search

News
Sports
Obituaries
Entertainment
Features
Multimedia
Opinions
Recipes

Weather

Forecast
StormTeam Reports

Storm Team  Forecast

TriCities, TN/VA
46°F 

Watch Video Forecast 

Sponsored By:



Classifieds

Marketplace
CarSeeker
Top Properties
Top Autos
Top Jobs
FSBO Showcase
Search Ads



About Us
Advertise
Comments/Feedback
Newspapers in Education
Staff | Email
Subscribe



About Us
Advertise
Comments/Feedback
Staff | Email



50th Anniversary

Local News

Man convicted of cheating charity sentenced

BY CHRIS DUMOND
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER
Nov 19, 12:00 AM EST

ABINGDON – A Tennessee man convicted of cheating a Bristol charity was sentenced in federal court Tuesday to more than two years in prison and ordered to pay \$175,000 in restitution.

Larry J. Pierce II, 30, of Johnson City was found guilty by a jury in late August of one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and 10 counts of mail fraud against Bristol Regional Speech and Hearing Center.

According to prosecutors, Pierce sold off-the-books instant bingo games during the charity's weekly gaming sessions, pocketed the money and then made false reports that left out those games.

According to Sue Wright, the center's executive director, the group cheated the charity out of about \$235,000 between 1999 and 2002.

"It limited our ability to serve the public," she said. "We delayed hiring another speech pathologist. It hurt."

The center, which helps those with speech, language or hearing problems regardless of ability to pay, noticed a decline in profits from the games – an important funding source, Wright said.

She was unsure whether the center ever would see Pierce's share of the money, regardless of how much it's needed.

Pierce was allowed to report to the U.S. Marshal service on his own and was not immediately jailed.



PRINT  EMAIL 

advertisement



Translator 91.5 serving Lenoir & Hickory, NC

www.wets.org 

Public Radio for East Tennessee, Southwest Virginia & Western North Carolina

Listen Live Online!

Tri
M
O
ar

Fe

Fe
Vi
Gi

B

To

A
Pr
La
be
To
Re
Ho
Hi
M
To
Re
45
RE
ST
Pr

A

20
At
pa
ad
ter
ca
ins
at
lir
by

A

M
Vi

Special
About Us
Advertise
Comments/Feedback
One for the
Community
Television Schedule
HDTV -
TheBigPicture
Staff | Contact Info

Two other men, Billy N. Hoss Sr., 73, also of Johnson City, and his son, Billy N. Hoss II, 38, of Chuckey, Tenn., earlier were sentenced to five years of probation with one year of home confinement after pleading guilty to conspiracy charges.

The elder Hoss was ordered to pay a \$500 fine and \$10,000 in restitution. His son was ordered to pay \$50,000.

Both men have paid their restitution.

The speech and hearing center fits hearing aids and artificial voice box devices with the help of the Lion's Club. Wright estimated that more than 800 hearing aids have been fitted in the past 15 years.

The center also offers a summer speech program for children and has a satellite office in Lebanon.

cdumond@bristolnews.com | (423) 360-1568

Daily News, Weather and more from the Bristol Herald Courier and NewsChannel
11

[Terms & Conditions](#) | [© 2003 Media General, Inc.](#)